

Foreword

This issue contains the “Proceedings of the Second Workshop on C_1 – C_3 Hydrocarbon Conversion”, held in Krasnoyarsk, Russia, June 27–30, 1994. The meeting was organized by the Krasnoyarsk Research Centre under the auspices of the Russian Engineering Academy, and followed the previous meeting held in Krasnoyarsk in 1991. Siberia has large resources of remote natural gas, and two workshops in Siberia were focused on an opportunity to review and discuss new developments in both direct and indirect gas conversion processes and to make a prognosis for future. The Siberian Workshop attracted the attention of scientists from eleven countries: Europe, Canada, Japan, South Africa and China. The total attendance was about seventy and forty four key-note lectures, oral contributions and posters were presented at the meeting. The scientific program covered various aspects of natural gas conversion with particular emphasis on the chemistry and processes for the oxidative coupling and partial oxidation of methane; selective oxidation, dehydrogenation and oligomerization of C_2 – C_3 alkanes; overall regularities in the oxidative conversion of low alkanes.

During the Workshop, it was shown that intensive developments on direct conversion of methane to ethylene and synthesis gas, as well as the conversion of ethane to ethylene, are continuing. It should be noted that methane conversion by CO_2

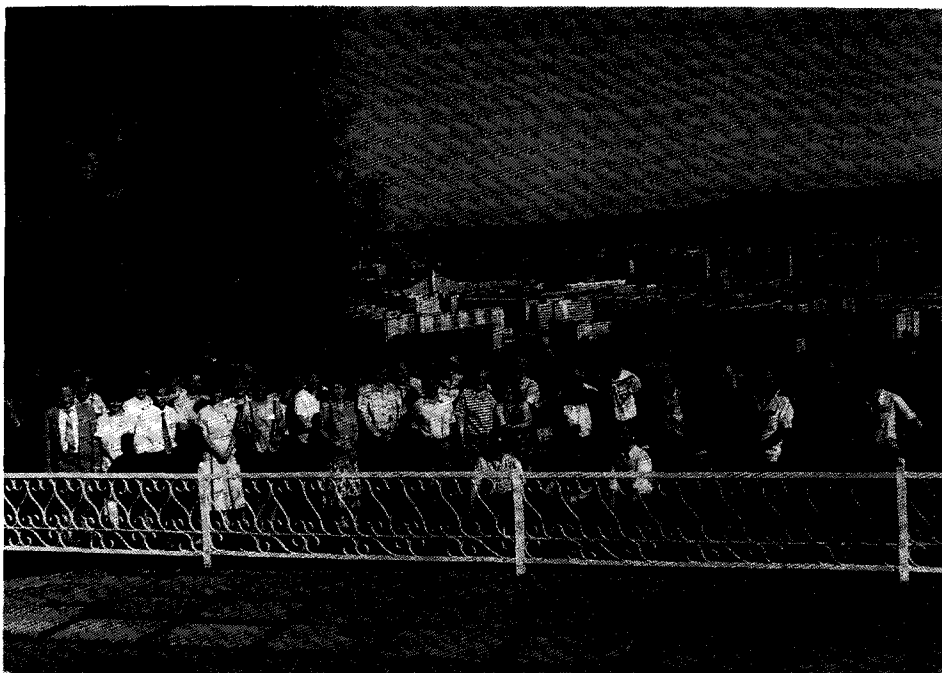
reforming, ethane conversion to acetic acid, and the use of electrocatalytic methods for methane conversion are appearing as novel aspects in catalytic oxidation of low alkanes. Much attention was paid to the application of physical-chemical methods for studies of the catalyst structure and the active sites of the catalysts as well as to computer simulations of catalytic processes and new catalysts.

Thirty nine papers have been accepted for publication after having been fully refereed as is usual in Catalysis Today. The Authors and Referees are to be thanked for having respected the deadlines of the editing procedure.

We should like to acknowledge the members of the International Advisory Board: Prof. J.R.H. Ross, Prof. V.D. Sokolovskii, Prof. K. Otsuka, Prof. O.V. Krylov, Prof. A. Holmen for their assistance in establishing the scientific program and the members of the Local Organizing Committee for their hard work on all aspects involving the preparation and holding of this meeting.

In conclusion, it should be mentioned that the International Advisory Board and all the participants have suggested that a further meeting to discuss these topics might be held in 1997 or 1998.

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A photo of participants at the workshop meeting.